

UConnPIRG Core Meeting 20-18
Monday February 10th, 2020, 7 PM
SU 310

Voting Members: Emily O'Hara (Chair), Rachel Cormier (Treasurer), Michael Katz (Secretary), Jason Lee, Brian Garzon, Shafina Chowdhury, Maria Mejia-Giron, Angelina Vaccarelli, Victor Htut, Cheyenne Tavares, Venkata Patchigolla, Amanda Cicchetti, Max Starke, Maya Murarka, Elizabeth Champeau, Mary Elizabeth Monticello, Colleen Keller, Kyleigh Hillerud, Abigail Coia, Ben Albee, Elizabeth Turano, Natalie Seier, Leah Nenner, Rebecca Tripp

Non-Voting Members: Merideth Mahoney, Irene Soteriou, David Vallejo, Kyle Cyr, Srimayi Chaturvedula, Emily Mankus, Leighton Johnson, Carly Saindon, Thais Quiles, Claudia Harris

Guests: Kurt Daigle (UConnPIRG primary advisor)

- I. Meeting brought to order at 7:01pm by Emily O'Hara (Chair)
- II. Introductions
- III. Updates
 - A. Colleen Keller recaps February 5's Spring kickoff. 102 people attended despite UConnPIRG missing its initial recruitment drive goals.
 - B. O'Hara (Chair) says that ConnPIRG lobbyist Jim Leahy will be in the office every Monday for legislative work.
 - C. Shafina Chowdhury says that Affordable Textbooks will meet on Fridays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 - D. Kyleigh Hillerud says that Zero Waste will meet on Mondays from 6-7 p.m.
 - E. Cheyenne Tavares says that the New Voters Project will meet on Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m.
 - F. Ben Albee says that 100% Renewable Energy will meet on Mondays from 5-6 p.m.
 - G. Keller says that Hunger & Homelessness will meet on Thursdays from 5-6 p.m.
 - H. Hillerud says that legislative committee meetings will be on Mondays from 5-6 p.m.
- IV. Around the World
 - A. O'Hara (Chair) initiates an activity in which each campaign coordinator - Chowdhury, Hillerud (substitute for Dylan DeMoura), Tavares and Victor Htut (as a duo), Albee, and Keller - cycles through small groups, providing an overview of their campaign and opening up discussion.
 - B. O'Hara (Chair) debriefs that this activity was meant to inform Core about all of UConnPIRG's campaigns (as Chowdhury said) and encourage inter-campaign collaboration (as Htut said).
- V. Business
 - A. Approval of 2/3/20 Minutes
 1. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the 2/3/20 minutes.
 2. Hillerud seconds.
 3. Discussion

- a) O'Hara (Chair) says that those who did not attend last week's Core meeting should abstain.
 4. Motion passes unanimously (*Mary Elizabeth Monticello and Venkata Patchigolla abstain*).
- B. November 2019 Monthly Bill
 1. Rachel Cormier (Treasurer) lists the following charges within UConnPIRG's November 2019 monthly bill, totaling \$751.83:
 - a) \$490 to UConn Catering for October 29's Activist Leadership Program meeting;
 - b) \$32.99 to Amazon for Halloween candy (this will be refunded in the December 2019 monthly bill);
 - c) \$38.72 to Walmart for Halloween candy;
 - d) \$10.98 to Big Y for November 19's Zero Waste film screening;
 - e) \$17.99 to Office Depot for glue sticks, which were used for propmaking;
 - f) \$23.97 to Amazon for chalk;
 - g) \$21.31 to Amazon for trifold boards and other props, which were used at tables;
 - h) \$5.68 to Office Depot for packing tape and a new carpet;
 - i) \$20.60 to UConn for monthly telephone use; and
 - j) \$89.59 to Government Connection for an office scanner.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) clarifies that the monthly bill is for all purchases approved in Core during a given month.
 3. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the payment of UConnPIRG's November 2019 monthly bill for \$751.83.
 4. Keller seconds.
 5. Motion passes unanimously.
- C. National Student Forum
 1. Hillerud discusses the National Student Forum in Washington, D.C., where each Student PIRG sends two students to discuss national movements. Hillerud and Keller will represent ConnPIRG this year, attending from February 22-24. Hillerud requests the following:
 - a) Up to \$45 for food/person/day, totaling \$90/day;
 - b) Up to \$30 for transportation/person, totaling \$60 (this would involve using a MetroCard and possibly Ubers/Lyfts); and
 - c) Up to \$1,000 for flights.

Keller and Hillerud exit the room at 7:55 p.m.
 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$350 for on-site transportation and food for the National Student Forum in Washington, D.C.
 3. Chowdhury seconds.
 4. Motion passes unanimously (*Keller and Hillerud recuse themselves*).
 5. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve up to \$1,000 for Keller and Hillerud's flights for the National Student Forum in Washington, D.C.
 6. Monticello seconds.
 7. Motion passes unanimously (*Keller and Hillerud recuse themselves*).

Keller and Hillerud reenter the room at 7:57 p.m.

- D. Office Supplies
 - 1. Elizabeth Turano asks for translucent pushpins, an Office Depot letter and legal file tote (for storage), and Clorox disinfecting wipes (two three-tub packs, with 35 wipes/tub - to protect from sickness and furniture staining).
 - 2. O'Hara (Chair) motions to approve the purchase of office supplies for up to \$75.
 - 3. Chowdhury seconds.
 - 4. Discussion
 - a) Kyle Cyr inquires about using cardboard boxes instead of the tote, to which Turano clarifies the need for plastic tubs that will last longer.
 - 5. Motion passes unanimously.
- VI. Weekly Warning
 - A. Turano implores Core to keep the new office clean and beautiful, noting that anyone who makes a mess there will be held accountable during Core meetings. She also calls upon campaign coordinators to help her update the office calendar.
- VII. Announcements
 - A. O'Hara (Chair) displays a QR code for those interested in signing up for the Activist Leadership Program.
 - B. O'Hara (Chair) says that students can text UCONNPROUD to 860-269-0269 to help protect UConn's budget.
 - C. Hillerud discusses ConnPIRG and MassPIRG's Blue Hills retreat from February 22-23, for which she will provide an RSVP link on GroupMe.
 - D. Hillerud announces that USG's mental health committee and UCCO will lead a mental health march to Wilbur Cross on February 26 at 9 a.m. She will share a link and related social media graphics on GroupMe.
 - E. Keller, UConnPIRG's ex officio senator, says that those interested in getting USG legislation passed may visit her during her office hours on Fridays from 1-2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm

Minutes submitted by Michael Katz (Secretary)